FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 MARCH 1986

French Hostages in Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad issued a communique 14 March announcing its refusal to hold further talks with French envoys until it receives a clear and positive answer to its demands from France, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The Jihad organization also distributed a videotape of its three French hostages. In a related development reported by the radio, French envoy Razzah Ra'd told Beirut's *AL-NAHAR* that he is "optimistic" about the release of the hostages held by the Jihad, though he noted that the negotiations have not covered the four-man French television crew kidnapped 8 March. Meanwhile, French intelligence sources cited by *LE MONDE* said that hostage Michel Seurat is believed to have been killed 2-3 months ago by the Islamic Jihad, which then waited for an "opportune" moment to announce his execution, according to AFP.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces defeated Iraqi attacks in the Panjwin area 11 and 12 March, killing or wounding 200 Iraqi troops, according to an Iranian military statement reported by Tehran radio. The radio subsequently claimed that Iranian aircraft bombed an Iraqi oil platform 14 March, inflicting "irreparable" damage.

Meanwhile, Iraqi aircraft attacked an Iranian command center, a television relay station in the Tehran area, a munitions factory in Shushtar, and the "strategic" Qotur bridge near the Iranian-Turkish border 13 March, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Iran; OPEC Affairs

The Iranian oil minister confirmed in remarks reported by Tehran radio that he will urge the forthcoming OPEC conference to adopt Iran's proposal to suspend oil exports to Western countries. Noting that Iran has been holding talks with non-OPEC countries, he contended that "countries like the Soviet Union and the PRC agree with us in confronting oil intrigues."

Meanwhile, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov met with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati during a 1-day visit to Iran, Tehran radio reported. Mladenov said the visit, his first since the Islamic revolution, was "excellent and positive," the report added.

Egypt-Israel: Tabah Talks

The Egyptian and Israeli delegations agreed on some procedural questions concerning arbitration but "much remains unresolved and the gap between the two delegations is still wide," the Egyptian delegation leader stated in remarks reported by MENA following his return to Cairo. He noted that the Tabah talks will resume in Egypt 19 March.

Libya-Sudan

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Jazuli Daf'allah and his delegation, Tripoli radio reported. Daf'allah told Al-Qadhdhafi of Sudan's support for Libya against "imperialist and Zionist provocations," the report added.

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Politburo Hears Karmal Report on CPSU Congress

LD132213 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. In this session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, Babrak Karmal, head of the PDPA delegation to the 27th CPSU Congress, first presented a report on the participation of the PDPA delegation to the congress.

Karmal said that the 27th CPSU Congress was held under conditions of fundamental changes in the contemporary world. The congress discussed the most vital and urgent topics and adopted resolute resolutions for the consolidation of peace and security. The firm and principled stance of the congress regarding the situation of Afghanistan reflected in the Political Report of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was the manifestation of the resolute and internationalist support of the Communist Party and the Soviet State for the heroic struggle of the people of Afghanistan in defense of the territorial integrity and national independence of the DRA.

The 27th CPSU Congress, as a great historic event, is the manifestation of the fact that the front of international socialism, communist and workers movements and all forces of peace and progress all over the world are increasingly becoming powerful and are being transformed into a reliable fortress in defense of peace and international imperialism. The congress determined the prospects for all aspects of political, social, economic and spiritual life of the Land of the Soviets and pointed out the future direction of the comprehensive economic and social developments. The congress pointed out the leading role of the CPSU and the need to further intensify party political work in accordance with present conditions.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo regarded the resolutions adopted in the congress as having vital importance for the destiny of the world in the interest of peace and social progress. The Politburo highly assessed the participation of the high-ranking PDPA delegation in the congress, and fully approved the activities of the PDPA delegation which included meetings, concluding protocols with fraternal parties, laying flowers on the tomb of great Lenin, attending the news conference in the 27th CPSU Congress press center, participating and talking at meetings in the famous (?Tamaly) motorized division of [name indistinct] situated in the suburbs of the capital of the Soviet Union and the meeting of Afghan students in Moscow, and other activities.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo session also decided to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the National Fatherland Front as one of the great mass organizations and the center of mobilization of all national and democratic forces of the country. The Politburo session also adopted a decision regarding a number of important domestic and foreign topics.

Keshtmand Addresses Council of Ministers

LD131911 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] A plenary session of the DRA Council of Ministers was held today in which the draft of the socioeconomic development plan, the DRA budget and the enterprises banking plan of the country were discussed. Sarwar Mangal, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee; Mohammad Kabir, minister of finance; and Abdol Absir, president of the Afghanistan Bank presented reports, and a number of ministers spoke in this regard.

Also a number of legal documents, laws, regulations and bills regarding state enterprises, which were put forward by the Ministry of Justice, the ministries and relevant departments, were evaluated. Minister of Justice Mohammed Bashir Baghlani presented a report in this connection, about which some ministers expressed views.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers delivered a statement about the fundamental tasks of the ministries, state committee and the departments of the DRA in the area of the socioeconomic development and the state budget for 1365 [beginning 21 March].

Comrades, the year 1364 [ending 20 March] has been considered as an important year from the viewpoint of social and political-economic changes taking place regarding the expansion and consolidation of the national democratic April Revolution. Relying on and with the help of the masses, the new revolutionary power has expanded. The first democratic and popular elections for the participation of the broad strata of the people in the leadership of the local organs of the state power and administration have begun and are successfully continuing. Practical steps have been taken toward the democratization of the state apparatus. The traditional Grand Assembly and the tribal assembly have been convened, and the domestic and foreign policies of the PDPA and the DRA Government were supported by them. Readiness was expressed for defending the revolution and its gains.

The DRA Revolutionary Council's announcement of 22 Aqrab 1364 [13 November 1985] concerning the national democratic character of the April Revolution and its immediate tasks under present conditions, and the documents of the 16th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee concerning the expansion of the social bases of the people's revolutionary sovereignty on the foundation of the theses put forward by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, have provided suitable conditions for the implementation of the socioeconomic development plans of the DRA and the drafts of annual plans and their prospects.

The realization of the socioeconomic plan of 1364 indicates that gross national product has been increased by 6.2 percent and national revenue by 5.5 percent as compared to 1978-79. An increase of 11.2 percent in the production of industrial goods of the state and mixed sector, a 23.4 percent increase in the production of light industries and foodstuffs; and a 16.8 percent increase

in factory production in the private sector, in comparison with that of last year — as well as an increase in the production of chemical fertilizer, cement, textiles, cooking oil, meat and wheat flour — could be described as considerable growth.

The implementation of measures in exploration and geological affairs, the (?discovery) of new natural gas reserves, increase in the number of state transportation vehicles and the broadening of their activity, putting into operation of a number of major economic projects, the realization of the plan of retail trade in the state and mixed sectors, the improvement of the state, mixed and cooperative trade and the enhancement of its influence in the relative stability of prices and other gains could also be mentioned.

In connection with the realization of the socioeconomic growth plan of the DRA for 1364, the great assistance of the Soviet Union, the traditional friend of the people of Afghanistan, is of fundamental importance. This great and comprehensive fraternal assistance prepares objective opportunities and suitable grounds for the growth of the national economy and the improvement in our workers standard of living.

The share of Soviet assistance in the building of projects under construction during 1364 constitutes 73.3 percent of the total. The projects under Afghan-Soviet cooperation successfully continued in the current year. The plan for the above projects has been fulfilled by 11 percent. There were some 65 projects under construction with the help of the Soviet Union in 1364 alone. It should be pointed out that some 60 percent of the country's industrial products and 75 percent of industrial products in the state and mixed sectors are being produced by Afghan-Soviet cooperation establishments.

It was appropriate that this year, the 65th anniversary of the signing of the Afghan-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty, which was signed on 28 February 1921, was celebrated in both countries. This celebration took place at a time when the 27th Congress of the CPSU, the party of great Lenin, was being convened in Moscow as a great event, not only for the Soviet people, but for all workers of the world and progressive mankind. The participation of the Afghan delegation at the work of the 27th congress, this great gathering of the Soviet Communists, was a matter of pride for our party and people. The principled stand of the Soviet Union in relation to the solution of questions surrounding Afghanistan, its support for the efforts of the Afghan people in defending their sovereignty and independnece, which had been presented to the congress in the Political Report of the CPSU by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, once again confirmed the traditional and fraternal Afghan-Soviet friendship.

The (?technical) experiences attained from the work of the 27th CPSU Congress and their utilization helps in the solution of questions and their method of approach, relative to the conditions of the socioeconomic growth of our country. During the congress everyone again realized that the CPSU and its leadership, following Leninist teaching and policy, creatively and scientifically approached the solution to important domestic and international issues in a principled and critical manner. This matter is a guideline for us too, and is a source of inspiration and learning.

Comrades, pursuing these methods of principled and realistic approach and utilizing the experiences learned, nevertheless do not consider our positive gains in the implementation of the socioeconomic growth plan of the DRA for 1364 to be overly great. Our approach is practical and critical, in order to reveal shortcomings and find solutions to problems. The very major aims and tasks drafted in the socioeconomic development plan for 1365 again are the relative rise in the standard of living of the people, the enhancement of the effectiveness of investments, the timely exploitation of the most important projects of the national economy, the development of the system of planning and basic structures, the effective utilization of the assistance of the friendly countries, the raising of the level of agricultural and industrial production, the continuation of the implementation of the democratic land and water reform, the improvement and strengthening of the agricultural sector, the better utilization of water and water resources, the effective and better utilization of production capacities, the encouragement of and support for the private sector in order to increase the production of industrial products, the improved organization of the transportation enterprises and the further strengthening of the bases of material, technical, social and cultural affairs.

UN Envoy Departs; 'Hopeful' About Talks

LD131716 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's envoy, left for Islamabad this morning at 0900 after 3 days of talks in Kabul. He was seen off at Kabul airport by Sarwar Yoresh, deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (Sakhi Danc'hjoi), adviser in the Foreign Ministry; the deputy chief of protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the UN Development Program representative in Kabul.

Before his departure, the UN secretary general's envoy spoke with the country's mass media representatives and said that his talks in the DRA on finding a political solution were comprehensive, fruitful, and constructive.

In reply to a question, Diego Cordovez said that the major aim of his visit was to eliminate some doubts and uncertainties, which still exist. He added that he hopes that he can eliminate these doubts in the course of the final stages of talks.

Regarding the prospects of talks, Diego Cordovez said that in light of talks that he has conducted in Kabul, he is very hopeful about eliminating the present obstacles.

BAKHTAR Sponsors News Conference on Human Rights

LD132144 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] A news conference was held by BAKHTAR Information Agency in the Ariana Hotel today in which the state of human rights in the DRA was comprehensively discussed and the effective and practical measures on the basis of the objectives and aspirations of the April Revolution, consolidation of democratic and political life, democratic legality, improvement and

enhancement of living standards of people as true manifestation of human rights, democracy and the true social justice were explained. The news conference was attended by Mohammad Anwar Farzam, secretary of the DRA Revolution Council Presidium; Karim Shadan, president of the Special Revolutionary Court; Gholam Ghaws, member of the Revolutionary Council and representative of the DRA trade unions; Daud Kawian, chairman of the BAKHTAR Information Agency; Nabi Kamyar, minister of public health; Abdol Samad Qayumi, minister of education and training; Mawlawi Abdol Wali Hojat, minister of Islamic affairs; Mohammad Bashi Baghlani, minister of justice; and Major General Gholam Nabi, deputy minister of tribes and nationalities affairs.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that at the beginning of this news conference a statement by the BAKHTAR Information Agency on allegations of imperialist circles on violations of human rights in the DRA was read by the chairman of the BAKHTAR Agency. The statement reads in part: The purpose of the leaders of the undeclared war against our country in speaking of human rights is to keep our people in chains of slavery and captivity, hunger, and poverty, and oppression and injustice all of which were eradicated by the April Revolution. The participants of the news conference then answered questions from local and foreign correspondents, the full account of which will be published later by the mass media.

BAKHTAR Human Rights Statement

LD140722 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR — A press conference was held here on protection and preservation of human rights in the DRA today.

The statement of BAKHTAR Information Agency which was distributed at the press conference says:

In the context of the hostile psychological war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA), the use of the false slogan of the "violation of human rights in Afghanistan" constitutes one of the recognized aspects in the reactionary and imperialist propaganda against our country.

The perpetrators of the undeclared war headed by the adventuristic and criminal administration of Washington, have launched poisonous propaganda in this connection. This propaganda is carried out on the basis of reports fabricated by CIA and are supplied to a number of so-called "human rights experts" to deceive the people of the world.

The real aim of such false propaganda is to divert world public opinion from the living truths of the revolution and society, to justify unbridled intervention and aggressions of imperialism and reaction against our country and to conceal the bloody crimes which have been committed by them against our country during the past eight years. Bitter facts are concealed behind this deceptive mask of the reactionary and imperialist circles headed by Reagan's criminal administration boasting temendously as the self-styled guardian of human rights.

The so-called "defenders of human rights" who have not refrained from any crimes against humanity in order to maintain the plunderous interests of imperialist monopolies have converted our country to a bloody wound by launching an undeclared war with extensive dimension.

The ringleaders of the counter-revolutionary mercenaries who were the henchmen of the rotten regimes prior to the revolution and who had kept our country [word indistinct] backward with their treacherous collusion with international reaction and imperialism and had deprived the people of Afghanistan of the most primary human rights have suddenly become the "defenders of human rights". These ringleaders, having received millions of dollars from their foreign master, equipped the criminal counter-revolutionary bandits with modern and mass destruction weapons and exported them to our country. These bandits have ruthlessly martyred thousands of children, women and innocent men, have made thousands of children parentless, have caused thousands of mothers to mourn over their sons and have plundered their wealth and set them to fire.

Freedom of conscience, training, education and health are recognized as the natural rights of every man in the DRA. But the murderous counter-revolutionary bands have destroyed and set to fire over 133 mosques, 2707 schools and 130 hospitals. A great number of clergymen and patriotic teachers were cowardly assassinated by the counter-revolutionaries, who have not even refrained from the poisoning and murdering of school children.

The aim of the organisers of the undeclared war on the human rights propaganda is to keep our people in captivity, slavery, poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice. The glorious April Revolution ruled out all these ignominious blemishes.

The revolution made the people of Afghanistan the original owners of the country, to determine their own destiny and opened the real path of freedom, progress and social justice, the path of profound economic, social and cultural transformations to the people who were kep for centuries in hard captivity of medieval ages.

It is right after the victory of the April Revolution and its new revolutionary phase that one can talk of human rights in the country in its real sense.

Based on the lofty objectives of the revolution, effective, practical and extensive measures have been taken for the further democratisation of social and political life, to ensure democratic legality and for the promotion of the standard of living of the people. The real meaning of human rights is democracy, freedom, and real social justice on the basis of which all the rights and democratic freedoms of the people, such as freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of conscience, respect for the rich traditions of the people and their national cultures, the right of learning and free education, free use of health services, the right to work and others are maintained and guaranteed. All these rights are inscribed in the fundamental principles of the DRA, and is being implemented day by day. We can cite living examples in this connection:

Ministry of Religious Trusts and Islamic Affairs and High Council of Scholars and Clergymen have been established in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

In the past five years, over 57 mosques were newly built, 527 mosques and sacred places were renovated. Over 30.8 million afghanis were earmarked for this purpose and financial assistance rendered to scholars and clergymen exceeds 117.9 million afghanis. The total number of mosques built after the victory of the April Revolution in the country is twice the number of mosques which were built during tens of years of reign of the cruel monarchical rulers.

Over 1.25 millions of our countrymen have acquired literacy since the victory of the April Revolution and 409 new supplementary educational institutions have been set up. The total circulation of daily newspapers and magazines has reached forty million copies, exceeding the pre-revolution figure by 12.5 times.

During Zahir Shah's reign, only 107 titles of books were published but over 849 titles of books numbering 33 million copies were published by the revolutionary state in the past five years, including printing of the holy Koran and its interpretation and other religious books.

After the victory of the April Revolution, teaching in national languages for national minorities was introduced. Over 6000 pupils in 40 schools receive their education in Uzbeki, Turkmeni, Baluchi and other languages.

The number of public health institutions expanded extensively, the number of beds in hospitals has been increased by more than 120 percent and the number of physicians increased by 58 percent. Medical services have been provided free of charge after the April Revolution for the first time in the country.

The human rights in revolutionary Afghanistan are inherent in the expansion and consolidation of the network of social organisations, such as the establishment of the National Fatherland Front as a powerful political base of the revolutionary sovereignty of the working people with about 800 thousand members. The elections of people' representatives to the local organs of state power and administration have been held.

The people elected their representatives in a free and democratic manner for the administration of state affairs. The expansion of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers of the DRA, with the inclusion of reliable representatives of various social stratas, is indicative of the free, active and democratic participation of the vast masses of the people, including all the fraternal nationalities and tribes with equal rights, in the socio-political life of the country.

The freedom of women and the maintenance of their equal rights with men and improving the children's conditions constitute one of the fundamentals of human rights. These are among the important objectives of the April Revolution and serious care is given to them in the DRA.

The material and moral welfare of the masses of the people and ensuring of their democratic freedom constitute the nucleus of the human rights.

The successful continuation of land and water reforms, the extensive and basic measures in the socio-economic and cultural spheres, brilliant gains attained by the people are manifesting that despite the imperialist, reactionary undeclared war against the country, the objectives of the revolution aimed at improving and promoting the standard of living and material welfare of the masses of the working people are being realised day by day. The drafting of the first five year socio-economic development plan is an important stride towards this direction.

Let the world understand that it was the organisers of the undeclared war, prior to all, the criminal administration of Washington, who committed the most inhuman crimes against the state of the DRA and the Afghan people. And the human rights are trampled down in our country only by the counter-revolutionary bands exported from abroad after being trained, financed and equipped by imperialism and reaction.

The free and working people of Afghanistan want to move ahead towards the humane and noble path they have chosen in an atmosphere of peace and security and to construct their new and ideal society based on peace, progress and real social justice.

Ershad Calls Opposition To Participate in Polls

BK130408 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Ershad has called upon the political parties to participate in the coming parliamentary polls to establish democracy in the country. Addressing a mammoth public meeting in Bogra yesterday, after all, he said, anybody getting the verdict of the people through the polls can form the government as laid down in the suspended constitution. He again gave the assurance that the elections will be free, fair, and impartial.

About the development of northern zone, he said his government has [word indistinct] to adopt positive steps for accelerating the pace of development in the neglected areas of the country. He said discriminatory approach toward development in the past was responsible for such imbalanced development in various parts of the country.

Ershad Reiterates Call

BK140241 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] President Ershad has again called upon the political parties to discard the path of indiscipline and participate in the forthcoming Jatiyo Sangsad [National Assembly] elections in a peaceful manner. Addressing a huge public meeting at (Purna) in Comilla yesterday, he told the political parties to take verdict of the people who are the source of all powers. Referring to the so-called direct action program of the political parties, the president said attempts to create violence and staging of demonstrations can never change the government. He asked the guardians to see that their sons and daughters do not fall prey to the designs of the politicians and thus (?destroy) their lives.

Turning to the striking nongovernment school teachers, President Ershad said they should join their duties immediately considering their social responsibility and the interest of the students. He said he always regards the teachers in high esteem and has been doing everything possible within the limit of the resources of the country to establish them in a respected [word indistinct] in the society.

Polish Minister Meets With Commerce Official

BK140235 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] The visiting Polish deputy minister for foreign affairs, Dr Jan Majenski, has said his country is keen to expand bilateral economic and trade cooperation with Bangladesh. He said this during his meeting with the commerce minister, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, in Dhaka yesterday. The Polish minister said his country will buy a substantial quantity of [word indistinct], jute carpets and other nontraditional items from Bangladesh. The commerce minister emphasized the need for further expansion and diversification of bilateral trade.

Delhi Reports Opposition Meeting on Elections

BK110340 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, two main opposition leaders, [name indistinct] and Begum Khaleda Zia, have reportedly met and discussed about the next phase of the movement against holding of elections under the martial law next month. Both the leaders have been demanding elections for a sovereign parliament under a neutral government.

AIR [All India Radio] Dhaka correspondent, Prabhakar Mishra, reports that much importance is being attached to this meeting and it has been held exclusively for the first time since the coordinated antimartial law movement launched about 3 years ago.

280 Nationals on Hunger Strike in Pakistani Jail

BK121719 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1705 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The Foreign Office has asked our embassies in Islamabad and Tehran to send details about the reported hunger strike by 280 Bangladeshi nationals in a jail in Pakistan. Commenting on a report in a section of the press in Dhaka today, a Foreign Office spokesman said there is no truth in the allegation that the people approached our embassy in Islamabad but were not given any help.

Minister's Resignation Accepted, Portfolios Shuffled
BK140905 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] The minister for human resources development, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, is to hold the additional charge of home affairs. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [Presidential House] communique issued today says the minister of state for communications, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, will also temporarily be the minister of state for home affairs. The communique says that the president, on the advice of the prime minister, has accepted the resignation of Mr S.B. Chavan [who became Maharashtra chief minister] from the Council of Ministers.

Home Minister To Be Chief Minister of Maharashtra
HK120430 Hong Kong AFP in English 0336 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 12 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Federal Home Minister S.B. Chavan was elected Wednesday to head the government in Maharashtra, state-owned radio reported.

The post fell vacant last week after Shivajirao Patil-Nilangekar was advised to step down following an examination scandal involving his daughter.

Mr Chavan will now resign from his federal post to take up the chief ministership, which would mean reorganization of Mr Gandhi's federal cabinet.

The move is seen by observers as part of Mr Gandhi's strategy to keep a firm grip on state politics and to keep up his "Mr Clean" image.

Mr Chavan, 66, will be the chief minister of Maharashtra for the second time after a gap of 10 years.

A former trade union leader, Mr Chavan is regarded as a veteran politician.

Born on July 14, 1920 at Paithan in Aurangabad District of Maharashtra, he graduated from Madras University and took his law degree. He joined politics in the municipal level and slowly, but steadily assumed an important position in the state politics.

He became a minister for the first time in 1957.

Mr Chavan served in the Federal government also as defence minister and was deputy chairman of the Planning Commission.

Gandhi May Delay Pakistan Trip; Comments on Sri Lanka
HK120650 Hong Kong AFP in English 0633 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 11 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi may have to put off indefinitely a promised visit to Pakistan later this year because of "slow" progress toward improved relations.

In an interview with a Calcutta newspaper, *TELEGRAPH*, Mr. Gandhi recalled he had tentatively agreed to visit Pakistan in the first half of this year, but that looked "very difficult" now.

The prime minister said one reason for this concern was Pakistan's "string of contradictory statements recently on the Kashmir dispute." Another problem was Pakistan's handling of Sikh hijackers of Indian planes over the past few years.

On the Sri Lankan ethnic problem, Mr. Gandhi said he wanted Colombo to act speedily to find a peaceful negotiated accord with the Tamils. He said the government should hold direct talks with the Tamils.

"There has not been any attempt by the Sri Lankan Government to actually talk to the Tamils. It has always talked to India instead. Now we don't want them to talk to us, we want them to talk to the Tamils," he said.

Gandhi on Intervention Against States' 'Subversions'
BK131653 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The prime minister has made it clear that government cannot have any compromise on the basic principle that an officer's loyalty should be primarily to the country and to the unity and integrity of the country. Intervening in a reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said we must remember that there have been cases in which officers have subverted and worked against the integrity of the country.

Mr Gandhi said this when an opposition member alleged that the center had intervened when a state government had taken action against all-India service officers. The prime minister told the house that there has to be some specific control from the center to see that such subversions do not take place. He said the center in such cases cannot just sit by and watch.

Without mentioning the names of states, the prime minister said some state governments take very peculiar decisions. Sometimes they retire a vast number of people and then reemploy a vast number. When there is an election 2 days later, they take a decision to subvert the very election. There are some basic procedures on which the government should work. The center cannot allow random actions by state governments to distort the whole procedure and system.

Earlier, answering the main question, the minister of state for personnel, Mr P. Chidambaram, said there is no proposal to create zonal cadre for IAS [Indian Administrative Service] and IPS [Indian Police Service] officers. No decision has been taken on the proposal for an integrated management pool. At no stage any state government has challenged the utility of IAS and IPS officers.

Resumption of Sri Lanka Talks Awaits End of Violence
BK131011 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was told today that there must be specific improvement in the atmosphere in Sri Lanka and abatement of violence before India can reactivate its offer of good offices for a solution to the ethnic problem in that country. Replying to a question, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.R. Narayanan, said negotiations cannot be conducted in an atmosphere of violence and killings of innocent civilians.

Replying to a supplementary, Mr Narayanan said India's offer of good offices remains. The visit of the foreign secretary to Sri Lanka has not been cancelled but only postponed.

Answering another question, the minister said government is doing everything to extend protection to fishermen within India's territorial waters.

Visiting Polish Defense Minister Meets Gandhi
BK140317 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] The Polish defense minister, General Florian Siwicki called on the prime minister in New Delhi yesterday. General Siwicki, heading a 7-member delegation, is currently on a 5-day visit to India.

Congress-I Leader Shot to Death in Punjab
BK130307 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, a Congress-I leader, Mr Tarsem Prakash Verma, was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen in Jullundur last night. Mr Verma was returning home from his office when he was attacked.

The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, yesterday reviewed the latest law and order situation in the state at a high-level meeting in Chandigarh. Fresh guidelines recently evolved to deal with the situation were discussed at the meeting.

According to an official spokesman, the chief minister, while expressing concern at the situation, instructed the officers dealing with law and order to effectively tackle the situation to restore confidence among the people. He said for doing so the police will not face any constraint of resources.

Meanwhile, the new inspector general of police for crime and operations has taken charge.

Three Killed by Extremist Activities in Punjab
BK140315 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, three persons were killed and three injured in two separate incidents of violence last night. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, about half a dozen jeep-borne suspected terrorists fired indiscriminately at a group of people near Dharamkot in Ferozepur District in which three persons were killed and two injured.

The victims were mostly Nirankaris [a Sikh sect]. They were supervising the construction of a godown in the field at the time of the attack. The police have cordoned off the area and a massive hunt for the culprits is continuing. In the second incident, the local chief of Shiva Sena [rightwing Hindu organization], Mr Avinash Chandra, was seriously injured when some suspected terrorists fired at him in Muktsar in Faridkot District.

Afghan Protest Over Rocket Firing Rejected

BK131534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has rejected the protest of Kabul authorities made yesterday that said ground-to-ground missiles were fired from Pakistan toward Paktia Province in Afghanistan between 3 and 9 March. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning and was told that Pakistan rejects this protest. He was asked to tell the Kabul authorities to desist from making such fictitious allegations.

Zia Addresses Cadets on National Defense

BK131723 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan is a peace-loving count- but she cannot leave her defense to the mercy of others. He said this while speaking to cadets graduating from the Pakistan military academy at Kakul today. The president said we cannot ignore our defense because weakness invites aggression and a weak nation must pay very dearly for her weakness. The defense of the nation is the collective responsibility of the whole nation and the Armed Forces play the role of front-line contingent.

Referring to the security situation of Pakistan, the president said that our soldiers besides being well trained and armed, have matchless morale and are capable of protecting the geographic and ideological frontiers of the Islamic community. General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan will continue the task of providing better training and modern weapon to its Armed Forces so as to enable them to defend the country's ideologies and integrity. The president urged the new officers being commissioned to consider four things to prove that they are trustworthy guardians of the beloved country. First they should take their guidance from the holy Koran and the teachings of the prophet Mohammad for their indomitable faith. Second, they should have expertise in handling the latest weapons and should keep abreast of changing trends and techndiques. Third, they should professionally groom their subordinates. They should look after their well-being and should gain their confidence at any cost. The fourth and last basic thing for a good soldier is to concentrate all his attention on professional matters.

Junejo Leaves To Attend Palme's Funeral

BK140625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo left Islamabad for Sweden a short while ago to attend the funeral of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is accompanying him. Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, federal ministers, senators, members of provincial and national assemblies, mayor of Rawalpindi, councillors and high officials saw him off at the airport. The Swedish ambassador to Pakistan was also present on the occasion.

Talking briefly to newsmen, the prime minister said during his stay in Stockholm he will hold talks with the new Swedish prime minister, Inguar Carlsson. He said he will also meet other world leaders attending the funeral in Stockholm. The prime minister is likely to return home on Tuesday [18 March]. He will also perform an unscheduled pilgrimage [to Mecca] while on his way back home.

Opposition Leaders Put Under House Arrest

BK121405 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] In Pakistan, nine prominent opposition leaders, including Khan Abdul Wali Khan, have been put under house arrest. These preventive arrests were made to stop these leaders from attending a meeting on the government action against poppy growers. The leaders after a meeting were scheduled to lead a march to the governor's house in Peshawar. Meanwhile, a judicial probe has been ordered into last week's incident in which 80 poppy growers were killed and many others injured in clashes with the paramilitary forces.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Holds Talks With PRC President

BK131124 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The Chinese president, Li Xiannian, and Sri Lanka's President Jayewardene held talks on bilateral issues at the Janadhipathi Mandiraya [President House] in Colombo this morning. Following the talks two agreements were signed between Sri Lanka and China. Under an economic and technical cooperation agreement, the Chinese Government will provide Sri Lanka with an interest-free loan of approximately 425 million rupees over a 5-year period. This money will be used for projects to be agreed upon by the two governments. The loan is repayable in 10 years with a grace period of 10 years. The agreement on reciprocal promotions and protection of investment provides the framework for the encouragement in creation of favorable conditions for nationals and companies of China in Sri Lanka to make investments in the two countries. Two agreements were signed by the Chinese state councillor, Madam Chen Muhua, and Sri Lanka's foreign affairs minister, A.C.S. Hameed. The signing of these agreements reflects the close relations between Sri Lanka and China and the recognition of the need for further strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries.

Minister Announces Trial Suspension of Air Attacks

HK131153 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Colombo, March 13 (AFP) — The government Thursday announced a one-week trial suspension of armed forces air attacks on militant Tamil separatists from Saturday.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said that if within one week of the freeze on air attacks, militants stopped ferrying men, weapons and explosives across the Palk Strait from India, the government would continue with the suspension.

He said that if during this period there was what he called a proper response from the militants and if no acts of violence occurred in the one month leading up to the Sinhala and Tamil new year in mid-April, the government was willing to open any kind of dialogue with the militants or any section of the Tamils for a political settlement of the ethnic problem.

Mr Athulathmudali earlier Thursday confirmed that the Air Force attacked a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) hideout Wednesday at Velvettithurai, at the northern tip of the Jaffna peninsula. Three people died when the planes hit the house with rockets, he said.

Mr Athulathmudali said India had not been notified of Colombo's suspension of air attacks, but said he appreciated the "continuing good offices" of New Delhi.

He said an invitation to Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari to continue with mediatory talks still stood.

Colombo has charged that New Delhi provides bases for Tamil separatists in the southern state of Tamil Nadu but India has consistently denied these allegations.

Mr Athulathmudali said that in the last few days four boats were sunk by the navy in the Palk Strait area, of which at least three were suspected of ferrying arms from southern India.

A statement issued during his press briefing said Sri Lanka reiterated "its firm and unqualified commitment to a political resolution of the current ethnic problem."

But the government, it said, was constrained in its efforts by "armed terrorist action" which "as the world is aware and as the foreign media and other public sources have long recognised derives support and sustenance from outside Sri Lanka."

Mr Athulathmudali said that if there was no violence during the one-month time frame then talks, "direct or indirect, formal or informal" could be started with any section of the Tamils.

The minister also said that several messages had been received from Tamil refugees now in southern India saying they wished to come back because of conditions there.

But they had complained that the surveillance by Colombo's forces in the northern waters stopped them from returning. To facilitate their return he announced that from Saturday refugees could travel back directly from Rameswaram in southern India to Talaimannar in northwestern Sri Lanka.

This access route would be kept open for eight hours each day.

Delhi Reports 4 Killed in 13 Mar Air Attacks

BK140935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Even as the Sri Lanka Government announced suspension of air raids on Jaffna peninsula from tomorrow, four persons were killed in (Mallide), about 20 km from Jaffna, as helicopters strafed the village for 4 hours yesterday. One woman was killed in the initial air attack. Three more died as the helicopters struck again while funeral arrangements for the dead women were being made. Eight persons were injured, 4 of them critically, and 15 houses damaged.

Further on Visit by Bulgarian Foreign Minister

Meets Agriculture Minister

LD131012 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — The visiting foreign affairs minister of Bulgaria, Petur Mladenov, in a meeting with the Iranian Minister of Agriculture 'Ali 'Abbas Zali here Thursday morning, discussed expansion of bilateral relations.

Zali hoped that exchange of visits between the officials of the two countries will result in further strengthening of agricultural cooperation.

The Bulgarian official who arrived here Wednesday night heading a delegation, said that there were vast grounds for cooperation between the two countries, adding that Bulgaria was interested in expansion of mutual ties.

Musavi Confers With Mladenov

LD131129 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — The visiting Bulgarian foreign minister, Petur Mladenov, in a meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Thursday morning, presented a message from Bulgarian prime minister inviting Musavi to visit Bulgaria.

Expressing interest of Bulgaria in expanding overall relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mladenov said that his country was against production, storage and deployment of chemical weapons in war.

Prime Minister Musavi thanking Premier Grisha Filipov for his friendly message, said that he will visit Bulgaria in an appropriate time in future.

He stressed the importance of exploring present possibilities of the two countries for the expansion of political and economic ties and added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has paved the way for expansion of relations with friendly countries.

He emphasised that bilateral relations should be strengthened in the interest of the two nations, adding that further exchange of visits could be effective in this respect.

The Bulgarian foreign minister, who arrived here Wednesday afternoon heading a high-ranking political and economic delegation, held first round of talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Wednesday evening.

The two sides, reviewed prospects of greater mutual cooperation in various fields.

The two foreign ministers, referring to the forthcoming session of the joint economic commission of Iran and Bulgaria due to be held in Sofia, reiterated their interest in the expansion and strengthening of mutual ties. Mladenov also extended an invitation to Velayati which was accepted. The date of the visit has not yet been decided.

Khamene'i Receives Zhivkov Message

LD131340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, this morning, received Mr Petur Mladenov, the Bulgarian foreign affairs minister who arrived in Tehran last night at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation. This meeting was also attended by Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs; the political director-general of the Foreign Affairs Ministry for Europe and America; the political deputy of the Bulgarian Foreign Affairs Ministry and the two countries' diplomatic representatives. The Bulgarian foreign affairs minister first conveyed the warm greetings of Mr Todor Zhivkov, the president of Bulgaria and submitted a written message from his country's president to Mr Khamene'i on the full readiness of Bulgaria to expand bilateral political and economic relations, the need for closer cooperation between the friendly countries, which stand against imperialism and reaction, and the need to halt the arms race and threat of nuclear war between the superpowers.

The Bulgarian foreign affairs minister, while welcoming expansion of bilateral relations since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, referred to the two countries' common political views and regarded them as a suitable ground for further expansion of bilateral relations. He briefed the president on Mr Zhikov's concern regarding the arms race and nuclear war and the need for cooperation among world countries in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, apartheid, and reaction.

Afterwards, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, while expressing gratitude for the message of the Bulgarian people's president, agreed with his stances and stressed the need for closer cooperation among anti-imperialist countries and said:

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, we established close links with all the countries thath had anti-imperialist tendencies and have cut off relations with those countries having imperialist inclinations; or in some cases have reduced contact to the necessary minimum. In fact this shows a 180-degree turn in our country's foreign policy in opposing the falacious policy of the previous regime. We have based our relations with other countries of the world on this and we shall strive to expand these relations as long as the countries guarantee mutual respect in accordance with our revolutionary ideas.

Second Round of Velayati Talks

LD131818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Mr Petur Mladenov, foreign minister of the people's Socialist Republic of Bulgaria, held his second round of talks with our country's foreign minister at the Foreign Ministry building this afternoon. During these talks, the sides discussed bilateral relations and international issues in detail. Mr Velayati described the Islamic Republic of Iran's positions on Middle East issues, Palestine, and Lebanon. He said: Palestine will be liberated only with guns; there is no other way conceiveable. Mr Velayati also described the Islamic Republic of Iran's positions regarding the imposed war and the recent victories of the com-

batants of Islam. He said: Although our forces are in Iraqi territory, the intention is not to occupy Iraqi territory. Rather, our aim is to deliver an appropriate response to the aggressive Iraqi regime. We believe that Saddam's regime is not fit to remain in the region.

Mr Mladenov, stressing the large number of common features in the two countries' political positions, said: You know that since the emergence of the Palestine issue, our position has remained unchanged. We believe that none of the region's issues will be resolved without solving the Palestine problem. He added: Our positions regarding South Africa and many other international issues are similar or identical. We wish to see nuclear weapons reduced and eliminated. We are also opposed to the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD131950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov met with Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani this evening. During the meeting Mr Mladenov said:

It is my duty to convey greetings and best wishes from the chairman of the Presidium of the National Assembly of Bulgaria. Later, he extended an invitation to Hashemi-Rafsanjani from the chairman of the Presidium of the National Assembly of Bulgaria to visit that country.

Stressing that relations between the two assemblies could be very effective in bilateral relations, Mladenov said: Following the Islamic Revolution you gained great achievements and [words indistinct] have now gained a glorious position. We wish to continue our relations and enjoy your experience of struggles for the benefit of our country while expanding bilateral relations for mutual interest.

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Bulgarian National Assembly Presidium chairman for the invitation and said: I accept your invitation because I have wanted to visit your country and other East European countries. Such a visit can strengthen bilateral friendship and understanding and help to solve international problems. During the years following the revolution we have recognized your country as among those with whom we wish to have friendly relations. I see no obstacle in the way of expanding relations with you. There are suitable common grounds which encourage us to expand relations further.

Mladenov Ends Visit

LD132021 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs and member of the Politburo of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, who visited Tehran at the head of a political and economic delegation for a 1-day official visit, during which he met with our country's high-ranking officials, left Tehran for home today. He was seen off by Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati; the ambassadors of the two countries; and the ambassadors of the East European countries and Cuba to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Before his departure from Tehran, the Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs gave an interview to our correspondent. He described his visit as excellent and positive, and said: The talks held with Mr Velayati about bilateral relations and fundamental international problems were profound and extremely interesting. Moreover, I was received in audience by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran today and I also had meetings with the speaker of the Majlis and with the Iranian prime minister. The talks were held in an extremely cordial and sincere atmosphere and the two sides expressed their desire and will for action toward expanding bilateral relations. During these meetings, friendly messages from the authorities of the People's Republic of Bulgaria concerning improving cooperation and bilateral relations and also on important international issues, were delviered to the Iranian authorities. Some of these messages invited certain high-ranking Iranian officials to pay official visits to Sofia.

Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati also gave an interview to our correspondent in connection with the results of this visit. We now draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Velayati, would you please tell us what were the most important issues discussed with this delegation and how you see cooperation between the two countries in the future?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr Mladenov, the esteemed minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, paid his first visit to our country since the Islamic Revolution. Indeed, this was in response to my own humble visit and to the official invitation extended to him last year.

Our talks were connected with bilateral relations, regional problems, and topical international political difficulties.

Since the Islamic Revolution Iranian-Bulgarian relations have expanded in a remarkable manner. They have made purchases from us, including petroleum products and others and in return we are buying from them certain agricultural produce and industrial products. Bulgaria's abilities, particularly in the agricultural and stock-breeding areas, are good. We have studied their experience in agriculture and stock breeding and so far we have enjoyed excellent cooperation. God willing, our cooperation will further increase in the future.

He also conveyed messages to the responsible officials of our country and invited Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the prime minister, on behalf of their counterparts, to visit Bulgaria.

The invitations were accepted by the gentlemen concerned and they will begin these visits at an appropriate opportunity.

In the meantime, a meeting of the two countries' joint commission will be held in Sofia, capital of Bulgaria, in the coming months. Mr Zali, our esteemed agriculture minister, will take part in these talks as the Iranian representative. The economic delegation which has traveled to Tehran with the Bulgarian foreign minister, is remaining in Tehran in order to complete the

necessary talks on preparing the essential groundwork for the joint commission. We believe that our relations with Bulgaria will expand even further in the future. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Criticizes 'Arafat's Remarks

LD131702 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic Thursday sharply criticised Yasir 'Arafat for voicing support for the Iraqi war effort against Iran.

The spokesman said "The solidarity of Yasir 'Arafat with Iraq and some reactionary states in the region, who have open or covert relations with the Zionist regime of Israel, indicates the retrogressive leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization".

Recent reports quoted 'Arafat as saying that Saddam seeks peace and Iran's recent offensives (Val-Fajr-8-9) into Iraqi soil should be condemned.

The spokesman said "The militant Muslims of Palestine should question these leaders who in the very name of Palestine misuse the potentials of the deprived Muslim nation and have not yet taken a positive step in fighting the occupiers of the holy land of Qods".

Remarks by 'Arafat are "made after the revelation of covert relations between Iraq and Israel in a promise to recognize the Zionist regime in return for military support" said the spokesman.

But these facts, he said, "indicate the crisis the Iraqi regime is faced with as well as the solidarity of the reactionary and pro-U.S. wing in PLO with Saddam".

Minister Urges End of Oil Exports to West

GF140549 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] According to our correspondent, Mr Gholamreza Aqazadeh, the oil minister of Iran, this morning left for Geneva to take part in the 77th OPEC conference as head of an Iranian delegation.

Before leaving for the conference Mr Aqazadeh said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is strongly opposed to any oil price reduction and will look at any discussion on production quotas in terms of stabilizing oil prices. Aqazadeh added: This is a delicate situation. OPEC actions will be recorded in its history and the history of its member nations. Only cooperation among OPEC members can neutralize the superpower plots.

The oil minister added: One proposal that Iran will make at this meeting is to stop oil exports to the Western countries for a defined period.

Mr Aqazadeh also said Iran cut its oil exports during January and February to stabilize the oil market, although this action should have been taken by certain other members. However, we hope that a number of OPEC members will review their policies. Our oil minister added: Apart from Algeria and Libya, certain other OPEC members are also cooperating in our favor. At present our position is completely logical and principled and is based on OPEC objectives. Mr Aqazadeh hoped that countries like Saudi Arabia will notice that the weakening of OPEC can also effect them.

In connection with current Iranian oil exports, our country's oil minister said Iran is currently implementing its long-term agreements. Mr Aqazadeh also said that we have also had talks with certain non-OPEC countries, and countries like the Soviet Union and the PRC agree with us in confronting the oil intrigues. We hope that the results of these talks will be announced by them.

According to the report several non-OPEC members will also attend the 77th session of OPEC, which will open in Geneva on 16 March.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Al-Sulaymaniyah Counterattack 'Smashed'

LD121436 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] N.E. Al-Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, March 12, IRNA — Iranian Muslim forces smashed another Iraqi counter-assault in heights east of Al-Sulaymaniyah Tuesday night, killing or wounding more Iraqi soldiers, and capturing six others.

A large quantity of weapons and equipment belonging to the Iraqi forces were seized by Iranian Muslim combatants during the crushed counter-attack and the remainder of Iraqi troops were forced to flee.

Al-Faw Positions Holding

LD131739 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' HQ. March 13, IRNA — The military operational headquarters said here Thursday that its forces have repulsed an Iraqi counterattack in Iraq's southern Al-Faw peninsula.

The forces of the Baghdad regime counterattacked in the north of the Al-Faw salt lake Thursday morning but were severely supressed by the bravery and resistance of the Islamic combatants, said the headquarters.

Iraq had claimed earlier its forces captured the 30 sq km salt lake northwest of the oil port of Al-Faw.

The Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters acknowledged in its communique number 24 earlier IRNA reports that hundreds of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in the fighting and that some fifty others were taken captive.

It said two battalions of the 601st Brigade were routed and heavy losses were inflicted on the 103rd and 90th brigades. (Earlier

IRNA dispatches made an error in reporting the 103 Brigade as 107 brigade)

The communique said "now the Islamic combatants are fully positioned in their bunkers in the north of the salt lake and have paralyzed Iraqi forces by pounding their positions".

Communique No 24

LD132231 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the joint operational center for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in its communique no 24 issued tonight states:

In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful, O warrior nation and heroic Muslim Ummah of Iran; Islam's proud and mighty forces in the course of their epic war inflict heavy blows at the disintegrated body of the Ba'thist moribund enemy every day forcing the enemy to bear heavy losses and damage.

The Baghdad regime's forces continue their desperate and futile attempts emanating from repeated defeats in the warfronts and the lack of experience and competence of the military personnel of that country, this morning staged a counteroffensive north of the salt lake situated within Val-Fajr 8 operational area. It was soundly beaten thanks to the brave and steadfast forces of Islam. During the counteroffensive staged by 601st infantry brigade and supported by 103d and 90th Brigades [as heard] of the Iraqi Army, the Islamic warriors succeeded in destorying two battalions of 601st brigade and inflicting heavy losses and damage on the Iraqi 103d and 90th Brigades.

Following the confrontation, hundreds of the enemy forces were killed or injured and further 50 of their personnel were captured by our forces. Also, a considerable quantity of the enemy equipment was set ablaze and destroyed by Islamic combatants. So much so, that the area of the conflict is now littered with enemy corpses and their destroyed war machinery and equipment.

The Islamic warriors are now stationed in their positions north of the salt lake and are directing fire on enemy emplacements and fortifications to halt any movements or redeployments by the Baghdad regime forces. Katem ol-Anbiya' headquarters.

Enemy Casualties Reported

LD131747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces announced that during the victorious operations by the Islamic combatants on 11 March in Panjwin operational area, Iraqi forces were completely repelled and knocked out. The defeated enemy once again attempted another counteroffensive at 1300 hours 12 March -- supported by armored units and intense support fire by its artillery, aircraft, and helicopter gunships — and tried to gain access to some predetermined heights in the area. The Islamic fighters enjoying all available resources defeated the enemy operations by 1545 hours the same day, and destroyed enemy forces.

Based on the latest available data, the enemy losses during the above two operations was estimated to be 200 killed and injured. Furthermore, almost 30 enemy vehicles were destroyed or heavily damaged by intense fire of the Islamic fighters on the Chuwartah-Sulaymaniyah axis.

Throughout the rest of the northwestern operational sector our mighty warriors succeeded in the destruction of enemy positions with heavy defensive fire, silencing their fire and killing or injuring a number of the Saddamists.

The defeated enemy, facing the courageous operations by the Islamic warriors, bombarded the small town of Rabat at various times on 12 March resulting in the injury and martyrdom of a number of our fellow countrymen.

The valiant forces along our country's western operational areas also directed effective and precise fire and destroyed more than 10 enemy emplacements and ammunition dumps, killing or injuring 20 members of the enemy forces.

Based on the same report, Abadan came under sporadic enemy fire which caused some damage to a number of residential units.

Village Near Shadegan Hit

LD140802 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March 14, IRNA — Intruding enemy planes bombarded a village in the vicinity of Shedagan at 14:00 hours (10:30 GMT) Thursday. Four Arabic-speaking tribesmen of the village were wounded and three housing units were destroyed in this inhuman Iraqi attack.

Iraqi Oil Rig Attacked

LD141041 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 86

[From the news headlines]

[Text] Air Force pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 0630 today carried out a successful operation in the course of which they bombed the Iraqi Al-Umayyah oil platform. Irreparable damage and losses were inflicted on the enemy in the raid, so much so that the oil platform was ablaze for hours afterwards.